

into Southern New England. My specimens have been verified at the Gray Herbarium. — R. W. WOODWARD, New Haven, Connecticut.

SARGENT'S MANUAL OF THE TREES OF NORTH AMERICA. — Any one who has consulted Professor Sargent's *Silva of North America*, or who has had to make shelfroom for it, need not be told of the author's large way of looking at things and of doing things. Over its countless folio pages are spread the details of "the information concerning the trees of North America which has been gathered at the Arnold Arboretum," — that storehouse and headquarters of knowledge of the trees of the world.

Realizing the comparative inaccessibility of the fourteen folio volumes to students of our trees, Professor Sargent has recently put forth a manual¹ in which, as his preface declares, he has tried to bring this information into convenient form. Students everywhere must be grateful for this attempt, but yet their gratitude will not be unmixed with disappointment and dismay. For the manual is as large as many dictionaries, — as big, at least, as a "Webster's Abridged," and its price is — to say the least — inconsiderately high. Compared in size and price with the *Silva*, the manual is, to be sure, Lilliputian, if we may use this term somewhat in a Brobdingnagian sense.

In its rising eight hundred pages there is condensed an enormous amount of information, but at first sight, as compared with the *Silva*, the condensation seems to be due rather to a shrinkage of the pages and of the type than to any sacrifice of words. Of these there is a plenty. Merely the diagnosis of the genus *Crataegus*, for instance, takes between five and six hundred words. Asa Gray in his manual did it in forty-seven, though we must admit that much additional information in regard to this genus has been collected since Gray's time.

Some of the space needed for this over-conscientious completeness is gained by what to the ordinary student is a deplorable omission.

¹ Manual of the Trees of North America (exclusive of Mexico), by Charles Sprague Sargent, with illustrations by Charles Edward Faxon. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1905, pp. 826. Price \$6.00 net.

Who but a professional botanist, or one of the new school as regards nomenclature, will be able to recognize even common trees in the absence of synonymy? Even if we may admit that students fortunate enough to pursue their studies in the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum will not be disconcerted, in the presence of the familiar tree, to see *Carya alba* labeled *Hicoria ovata*, can we suppose that more than one student in a hundred, looking for the description of *Ulmus racemosa* will, even after some diligence, recognize it as *Ulmus Thomasi*?

But perhaps these remarks are beside the point. The question is, what will the student find in the book? The minutest, fullest details as to the characteristics in trunk, in branch, in twig, in leaf, in flower, in fruit, of every tree hitherto observed in all the length and breadth of North America, exclusive of Mexico; an account also of its climatal and geographical range; and last and best pen drawings to the number of six hundred and forty-four by the accurate hand of Charles Edward Faxon. "In them," as the author says, and we are inclined to agree with him, "will be found the chief value of this manual."

POLYGONUM EXSERTUM IN MASSACHUSETTS. — *Polygonum exsertum* Small has been collected several times along the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts, associated with *Aster subulatus* Michx. After frost this species is rendered somewhat conspicuous by the reddening of the foliage and sepals. Where it grows in dry soil it is reduced in size and has smaller fruit. Mature achenes from a plant less than a foot high were only three millimeters long. Specimens examined: *A. S. Pease*, no. 482, Sept. 27, 1900, (Hb. Pease); *A. H. Moore*, no. 1539, Nov. 10, 1903, (Hb. Moore); *H. H. Bartlett*, Oct. 26, 1904, (Gray Hb. and Hb. Bartlett).—H. H. BARTLETT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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